

Historic, Archive Document

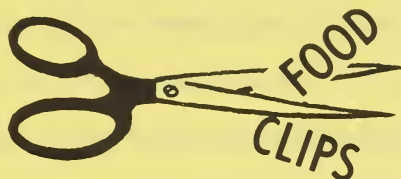
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Food and Home Notes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 29, 1973



Subjects in this issue:

- 1-- Rural Home Credit Loans
- 2-- Conservation Terminology
- 3-- Indoor Garden: Terrariums
- 4-- Fabrics: Cotton Denim

Brown eggs or white eggs? The color does not affect the nutritive value, quality, flavor, or cooking performance, according to the poultry division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

* *

What does cloudiness or milkiness in eggs indicate? Merely that carbon dioxide which is naturally present in a fresh shell egg has not yet escaped through the shell. The white becomes clearer as the egg ages.

* *

Did you ever wonder why the egg white sometimes sticks to the inside of the shell? Basically this is just because the eggs are fresher and the white is thicker.

* *

Use older eggs (not the ones you purchased today!) if you are preparing hard-cooked eggs for salad or for slicing. Why? They are usually easier to peel.

* *

No, the cloudy or slightly milky white substance occasionally found in eggs does not affect the use of the eggs--as above note indicates, it's a normal characteristic of fresh eggs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please return your mailing label.

TOWARDS HOME OWNERSHIP

—In Rural Areas

If you live in a rural area, and are without decent, safe and sanitary housing, and are unable to obtain a loan from private lenders on terms and conditions that can reasonably be met you may qualify for a Rural Credit Home Ownership Loan. The loans are available through the Farmers Home Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Rural areas are defined as areas in open country and places with populations of not more than 10,000 which are rural in character and not closely associated with urban areas. Borrowers may buy an existing house and lot or buy a site on which to build a home. While the emphasis is on new construction, homes may also be modernized under this plan. Loans are available that are modest in size and cost but adequate to meet family needs. Applications are available at county offices or more information may be obtained by writing to FHA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

ON CONSERVATION

— and Why

Understanding conservation terms and practices is a way of learning about soil and water and about our food that comes directly or indirectly from the soil, according to the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nature studies, campsite improvement and other such community projects are in full focus with the emphasis on participating in conservation practices to protect and improve soil, water, and other natural resources.

Compost is decomposed leaves, grass, and other organic materials that are used as a soil conditioner and as a mulch to protect the soil against erosion.

Contour means an imaginary line on the surface of the earth connecting points of the same elevation. Contour lines on a map show topographical features of the land such as steepness of slopes.

Flood plain means nearly level land on either side of a stream that is subject to periodic flooding.

Sanitary landfill is a site for disposing of solid wastes, where refuse is compacted and covered each day with a layer of soil. When filled, it can be used for parks, golf courses, agriculture, and other purposes.

Sediment means soil particles that are being moved or were moved by water. Greatest single pollutant of water by volume.

Slope upward or downward slant of the land as it relates to the horizontal. Usually measured in percentage of slope, which equals the number of feet of rise or fall in 100 horizontal feet.

Soil is a weathered portion of the earth's surface, composed of mineral and organic materials, in which plants grow.

And watershed is the total land area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point.

INDOOR GARDENING

—A Terrarium Garden

Terrariums are gardens enclosed in glass. They are easy to construct, and require little care, according to the Plant Researchers of Agricultural Research Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The glass enclosure for a terrarium may be any container that transmits light--a globe, a fish tank, or large brandy snifter.

African violet, maranta, begonia, coleus, croton, dracena, ivy, pepomia, philodendron, pothos, and wandering-jew are commonly planted in terrariums. Some of the plants that need high humidity can be grown in a terrarium when high humidity cannot be supplied in the open air.

Step one should be to place a one inch layer of gravel, pebbles, broken flower pots, or charcoal in the bottom of a container.

Step two. Dig moss from the woods (a small amount only) and line the sides of the container below soil level with the moss against the glass.

Then prepare a soil mixture of equal parts of garden soil, sand, and peat moss, enough for a layer 1 to 2 inches deep. Mound the soil to one side in the container to make a slope.

Use a long pair of tweezers--or sticks tied to tweezers--to put the plants in place but avoid getting soil on the leaves. After the plants are in place, clean the leaves with a dry brush. Then spray the plants and soil lightly with water. (atomizer type "waterer" is excellent for this)

Cover the container with a sheet of glass or a piece of plastic film. Then place the terrarium in a location where it has bright light, but never any direct sunlight. Sunlight heats the air inside the terrarium and kills the plants.

Turn the terrarium occasionally so the plants in it grow uniformly. Don't over-water. Water only often enough to keep the soil moist.

ALWAYS IN FASHION

———With Blue Jeans

A story twice-told is the one of Mother who says "don't wear those jeans again!" Popularity of the favorite "uniform of the teens" is the cotton blue denim that, though faded, is an All-American fabric. At least, we Americanized it to "denim," even though denim was actually developed in Nimes, France, where it was called "serge de Nimes" (cloth of Nimes).

Cotton consumed in denim fabric increased 96% percent in the last five years according to U.S. Department of Agriculture reports, and popularity of the sturdy fabric shows no signs of letting up. Why is it so popular? After it is washed, cotton denim becomes soft, supple, and comfortable. It feels good to wear--and it is fashionable. Everybody wears jean. Almost. And the cotton industry is happy with the jean-joiners because manmade fabrics are giving the natural fibers stiff competition.

Statistically, cotton denim now accounts for about 8.5 percent of total cotton use. There were more than 220 million pairs of men's and boy's denim dungarees produced in 1971, or more than a pair for every man, woman, and child in the United States. Women also share in buying men's jeans as they are often purchased and sometimes used by the girls and women.

Blue jeans are not the only use for the denim line--there are many different items being made in addition to the more ordinary clothing items, jackets and other casual ware. Denim is used for suitcases, hats, draperies even window shades and bedspreads, and pocketbooks.

COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES TO:

Shirley Wagener, Editor of Food and Home Notes, Press Service, Room 535-A,
Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250
Or telephone 202 447-5898.